

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A prolylendopeptidase-inhibitive agent, comprising an extract of a ~~cereal grain as an active component~~ grain of a rice plant which is in a germinated form.

2. (Currently Amended) The prolylendopeptidase-inhibitive agent according to Claim 1, further comprising a cereal grain as an active component wherein the cereal grain is a grain or seed of at least one member selected from the group consisting of ~~rice plant~~, wheat, corn, soybean, milo, buckwheat, foxtail millet, barnyard grass, proso and sesame.

3. (Canceled)

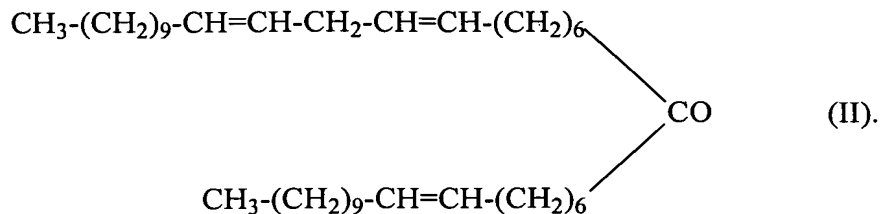
4. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a prolylendopeptidase-inhibitive agent according to Claim 1 comprising extracting ~~a cereal~~ the grain of a germinated rice plant with water, organic solvent, or mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising extracting at least one additional cereal grain wherein the cereal grain is a grain or seed of at least one member selected from the group consisting of ~~rice plant~~, wheat, corn, soybean, milo, buckwheat, foxtail millet, barnyard grass, proso and sesame.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is hexane.

8. (Currently Amended) A The prolylendopeptidase-inhibitive agent according to Claim 1, further comprising an isolated compound of formula (II)



9. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 4, wherein the grain of rice plant is in the form of germinated brown rice.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A food product, comprising a ~~compound a~~
~~prolylendopeptidase-inhibitive agent~~ according to ~~Claim 8~~ Claim 1 as an active component.

14. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing, reducing, treating, arresting, or alleviating cerebral dysfunction in a human or animal, comprising

administering the food product according to Claim 13 to a human or animal in need
~~thereof which said preventing, reducing, treating, arresting, or alleviating is intended.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the cerebral dysfunction is Alzheimer's disease.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing, reducing, treating, arresting, or alleviating the symptoms of cerebral dysfunction in a human or animal, comprising

administering the food product according to Claim 13 to a human or animal in need thereof ~~which said preventing, reducing, treating, arresting, or alleviating is intended.~~

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the cerebral dysfunction is Alzheimer's disease.

21. (New) The food product according to Claim 13, wherein said prolylendopeptidase-inhibitive agent is present at a concentration ranging from 1 to 10 wt%.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 14-16 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 17, and 19 have been amended.

Claim 21 has been added.

The amendment of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 17, and 19 is supported by the previously pending claims and the specification at pages 3-14. For example, the amendment of Claim 11 is supported by page 4, line 5-7. New Claim 21 is supported by the specification at page 10, line 20.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.